



Presented here are ten biographical portraits by S. Robert Powell of prominent Carbondale persons whose earthly remains are interred in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery:

1. Oscar Weston Bagley
2. Alexander Bryden
3. Thomas Gillespie
4. Philo Calendar Gritman and his wife, nee Jane Ball
5. James and Margaret (Gillespie) Russell and family
6. Eleanor P. Jones

7. Captain Michael Flynn

8. Alice Voyle Rashleigh

9. Jacob D. Schermerhorn

10. Carbondale Zouave unit in Civil War

## 1. Oscar Bagley

Article by S. Robert Powell:

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Carbondale (Pa.) News, Wednesday, September 9, 2009

### Restoring Historic Maplewood Cemetery

## Resting in Maplewood Cemetery are 46 area veterans of the Civil War

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is one in a series of articles in the Carbondale News presented by the Maplewood Cemetery Association offering examples of the many historic, unique and interesting gravesites in Maplewood Cemetery.*

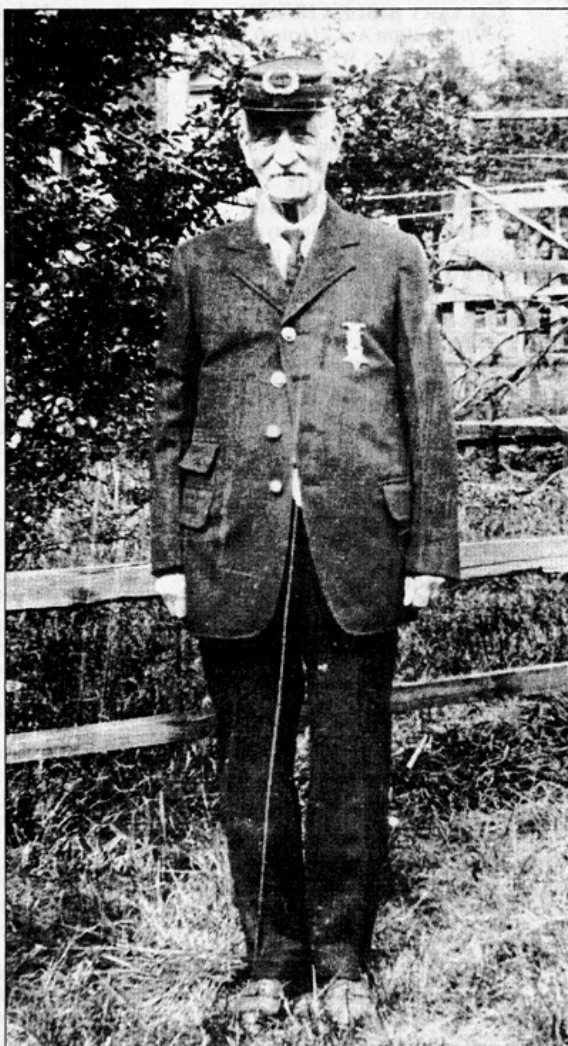
Oscar Weston Bagley, born September 12, 1848, is one of many Civil War veterans from the Carbondale area whose earthly remains were interred in Maplewood Cemetery.

According to the late Fred Olver, Canaan St., Oscar Bagley was 14 or 15 years old when he went to the Civil War. Following the Civil War, he returned to Carbondale and married, on February 25, 1883, Estella Leontine Squire, who died at the age of 52 on October 5, 1909, and was interred in Maplewood Cemetery.

The Bagleys lived at 44 Canaan St. In 1899, Oscar Bagley was in the picture framing business in Carbondale at 18 Salem Avenue, opposite the Globe Store. He also worked as a carpenter. On May 25, 1934, at the age of 85, he died and his earthly remains were interred in Maplewood Cemetery.

As of 1890, there were no less than 46 Civil War soldiers who were buried in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery.

In the list that follows, the place where each of these soldiers died (if not in Carbondale) is given in parentheses following the name. Those 46 soldiers are: Charles A. Mason, William A. Davies (David's Island, N.Y.), William Shannon, Frederick Ulmer (Hospital,



**CIVIL WAR VETERAN** — Oscar Bagley is one of the many Civil War veterans from Carbondale who was buried in Maplewood Cemetery. He is shown here, as an older man, wearing his Civil War uniform and medal. (Submitted by the Carbondale Museum and Historical Society)

Wa.), Ernest Johnson, Luman C. Berry, Erastus Lester, Henry J. Baker, J. H. Phillips, Henry W. Whiting (Mass.), H. N. Whiting, Robert G. Bailey.

Also: George Forrester, James Foster, William

Easter, William J. Hughes, J. H. Bronson, George Style, John D. Wedeman (Mill Creek, Pa.), James Willis, Frederick Glutz, Evan Breese, Edwin Reese, John Black, James Forrester, John Campbell, Isaac Siebottom, George J. Davis (Communipaw Point, N.J.).

Also: James Belknap, George M. Rowley, Alfred Darte, Lewis Deering, William M. Thompson, Amos Guard, M. P. Bailey, John H. Marcy, Lewis Decker, Lucius Marshall, Jacob Bryant, Benjamin H. Thomas, Eliab Gilbert, John Scurry, James M. Drumm, Ellis Roberts, William Herring, and Thomas Jardine.

Many additional Civil War veterans, who died after the 1890 list given

above was compiled, were also buried in Maplewood Cemetery. Readers who know of Civil War veterans who are not listed above are asked to contact the Maplewood Cemetery Association at Post Office Box 151 or 570-282-0385.

In an upcoming article in this series, we will list the names of the eight Civil War soldiers who, as of 1890, were buried in Carbondale's Old Catholic Cemetery (Belmont Street) and the 28 Civil War veterans whose earthly remains were interred in Carbondale's New Catholic Cemetery (Park Street). We will also list the names of the 11 Civil War veterans, as of 1890, who were buried in cemeteries in the greater Carbondale area.



## 2. Alexander Bryden

*Carbondale News*, Wednesday, May 11, 2011, p. 16:

### **HISTORIC MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY**

# Carbondale's First Hero

## **Alexander Bryden rescued trapped miners in 1946**

*Editor's note: More than 7,000 burials have been made in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery since the cemetery was established more than 180 years ago, and the earthly remains of many extraordinary individuals important to Carbondale history are interred there. On Saturday, May 14, representatives of the Maplewood Cemetery Association, together with members of several community and service organizations, will join forces at the cemetery for the annual Spring maintenance program, which will include grass cutting and trimming. Volunteers are welcome to participate in this community project. For more information, call the Carbondale Historical Society at 282-0385. The following is the first in a series of articles about some of the historical figures who lie at rest in Maplewood Cemetery.*

By DR. S. ROBERT POWELL

President  
Carbondale Historical Society

The earthly remains of Alexander Bryden, the great hero associated with the rescue of miners trapped in the 1846 mine cave-in in Carbondale, are interred in Maplewood Cemetery.

The mine in question was Old No. 1 Shaft (No. 1 and 2 Drifts), near Pike and Sand Streets.

About 9 o'clock on Monday morning, Jan. 12, 1846, the mine roof support timbers and coal pillars failed and the roof of the mines collapsed almost simultaneously to the extent of a half mile, or upwards, in length, and about forty rods in width. In mining terminology, what took place on that day is known as a squeeze.

Sixty workmen were trapped in the cave-in, which involved an area of almost fifty acres. Forty-six escaped through the various chambers, some with little injury, others were severely wounded.

Fourteen miners were instantly killed by the concussion of the air at the time of the cave-in: Patrick Leonard, Henry Moore, James Magrath, Patrick Walker, Patrick Mitchell, John Brennan, Peter Cawley, Anthony Walsh, Mark Brennan, William Clines, Michael Tolan, Henry Devany, John Farrell, and Ebenezer Williams.

The bodies of eight of those miners were never found: Patrick Leonard, Henry ("Harry") Moore, James Magrath, John Brennan, Peter Crowley (possibly "Crawley" or "Cawley"), Anthony Walsh, Michael Toolan (possibly "Tolan"), Henry Devanney (possibly "Devany"), John Farrell.

Alexander Bryden, single-handedly and at great risk to his own life, rescued two miners: Mine Foreman John Hosie (brought out after being trapped for more than 60 hours) and Dennis O'Farrell (leg broken by a large piece of

coal violently shot from a pillar by the great pressure of the strata overhead).

Alexander Bryden, whose heroic rescues of Hosie and O'Farrell are recorded in the annals of the history of anthracite mining in the Lackawanna Valley, was born in Daily Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland, on March 6, 1799, and was brought up among the coal mines of Ayrshire, where he became a coal miner, shaft sinker, and mine foreman. In 1842, he emigrated to America, and came directly to Carbondale.

In July of that year, it was difficult to get a job in the Carbondale mines, so Bryden took work wherever he could get it. His first work for the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company was with Hugh Brown, foreman of day laborers, but very soon he was given charge of the pumps that drained the water from the deep mines.

In March 1843, Bryden was appointed mine foreman, to take the place of Archibald Law, who was permanently disabled by a fall of roof and coal.

He continued in that position until the beginning of the year 1852, when he removed to Pittston, to take charge of the Pittston Coal Company's work at that place.

He held that position until the first of January, 1854, when he was appointed mining superintendent of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company's mines, which position he held until his death on August 20, 1854. At his death, he left a widow and twelve children.

We do not know what his education advantages were in Scotland, but in Carbondale he exhibited literary knowledge.

In order to avail himself of the benefit of the best literature and history of current events, Bryden, with the aid of James Clarkson, Esq., succeeded in founding a circulating library of the foreign and domestic quarterly and monthly magazines. He interested a large number of the miners and mechanics in the enterprise, by which means, at a small expense to each, everyone had access to all the current literature of the day.

Carbondale News

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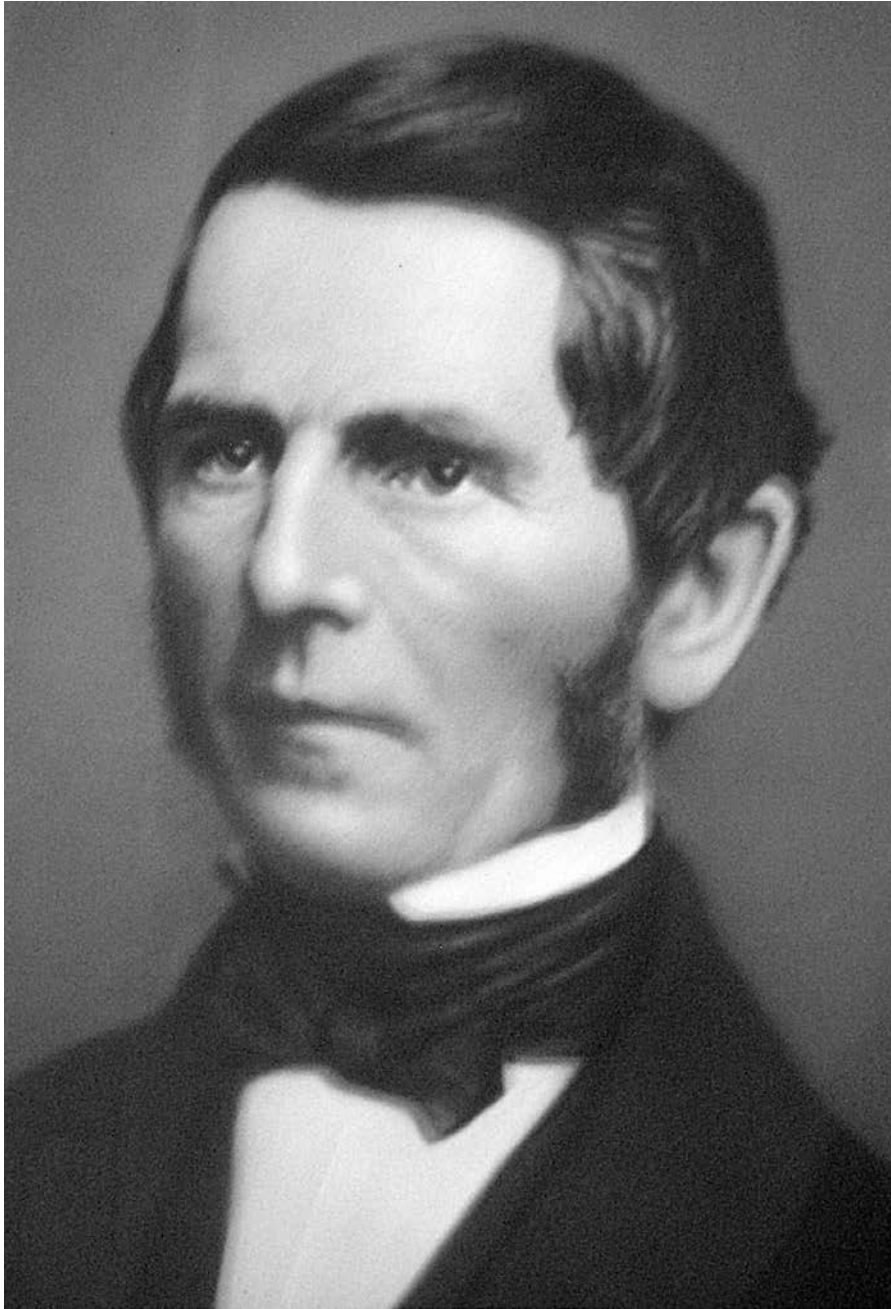


Alexander Bryden





### **3. Thomas Gillespie**



Thomas Gillespie



# Carbondale News

the-carbondale-news.com Carbondale News ■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

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## HISTORIC MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY

### Carbondale's Financial Pioneer Thomas Gillespie was a highly successful banker

*Editor's note: More than 7,000 burials have been made in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery since the cemetery was established more than 180 years ago, and many individuals important to Carbondale history are interred there. Maplewood Cemetery Association is seeking volunteers and community service organizations to help maintain the cemetery. For more information, call the Carbondale Historical Society at 282-0385. Below is one in a series of articles about some of the historical figures who lie at rest in Maplewood Cemetery.*

By DR. S. ROBERT POWELL

President  
Carbondale Historical Society

Thomas Gillespie, Carbondale's first financial broker and one of the founders of the First National Bank of Carbondale, is buried in historic Maplewood Cemetery.

Born in Troqueer, Scotland, in 1804, he came to Carbondale in 1833 and established a residence (later to become the McMullen residence) on N. Church St. He soon formed a partnership with Charles White, and engaged in the mercantile business.

After a brief period, this connection was dissolved and Gillespie, in partnership with Horatio S. Pierce, established the firm of Gillespie & Pierce, which was not only among the most popular and successful firms in the Pioneer City, but also one of the most prosperous firms in Northern Pennsylvania.

About that firm, the editor of the Carbondale Advance noted at the time: "It seemed to comprise in an eminent degree the elements of sagacity, enterprise and caution."

So successful was that partnership that Gillespie and Pierce, having accumulated a considerable fortune, discontinued the mercantile business and, associating with James Stott, engaged in the business of private banking, with great success, under the name of Gillespie, Pierce & Co.



Thomas Gillespie

That private banking enterprise became, in November of 1864, the First National Bank of Carbondale, with H.S. Pierce as president, John S. Law as vice-president, and James Stott, cashier. The board of directors of the new bank were H. S. Pierce, James Stott, Anthony Grady, Thomas Gillespie, James Clarkson, John S. Law, D. N. Lathrope, William W. Bronson, and Lewis Pughe.

In 1848, Gillespie, a member of the Whig Party, was elected one of the Lackawanna County representatives in the state legislature. In 1850, he was one of seven Carbondale citizens appointed by William Ball, Esq., on behalf of the village of Carbondale, to procure, by subscription, funds to purchase engines and hose to extinguish fires. The other members of that committee were James Archbald (soon to be Carbondale's first mayor), James Dickson, Judson Clark, Anthony Miles, Anthony Grady, and Henry Evans.

On March 21, 1851, immediately following the incorporation of the City of Carbondale on March 15 of that year, Gillespie was elected to serve on the City's Select Council. The other members of that first Select Council were

Joseph Benjamin, Peter Campbell, and Michael Flynn.

Gillespie was a pillar of Carbondale's First Presbyterian Church. He was one of the three original subscribers, with D. N. Lathrope and Rev. T. S. Ward, each of whom donated \$1,000 toward the construction of the new church building in 1865.

As a highly successful businessman and the banker, Gillespie had the financial resources that made it possible for him to be generous to members of his extended family. He purchased and gave to his sister, Jeanette (Gillespie) Locke and her family, a house at 35 River St., where Lapera's Gas Station now stands. In that house, Margaret Gillespie Locke and James Russell, who were to become highly prominent citizens of Fell Twp. during the second half of the Nineteenth

Century, were married on New Year's Day, 1851.

In August 1867, Gillespie's health began to fail and, accompanied by friends, he undertook a journey by railroad to western New York in the hope of benefit from a change of air and scenery. That hope was not realized.

On October 26, 1867, Gillespie died. A numerous concourse of friends attended his funeral, at which an appropriate discourse was delivered at the Presbyterian Church by the Pastor, Rev. Oliver Crane.

The executors of his last will and testament were Thomas Dickson (who ultimately became the president of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co.), John S. Law, and Horatio S. Pierce.

In his will, Gillespie left \$5,000 to the American Bible Society, in order that the word of God might be spread throughout Luzerne, Wayne, and Susquehanna Counties. He also left a small gift of James Clarkson, Esq., a very dear friend. The remainder of his estate, \$300,000, he stipulated was to be divided among the families of his two surviving and one deceased brother, and two sisters, numbering in all about 40 heirs, each of whom was to receive \$7,500. (In 1867, someone who earned \$1 a day was said to be earning a decent wage. If someone had a yearly income of \$400 in 1867, for example, a personal bequest of \$7,500 would have been regarded by him or her as the equivalent of 18 years' income.)

Thomas Gillespie gave liberally of himself and his resources to his community, to his church, and to his extended family. Surely, many lives were affected, hopefully for the better, from the public spirited thoughtfulness and generosity of the man.

# Opinion

## 'County' conundrum corrected

On page 19 of the Wednesday, May 18, issue of the Carbondale News, Dr. S. Robert Powell, President, Carbondale Historical Society, in his column "HISTORIC MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY - Carbondale's Financial Pioneer - wrote: "In 1848, (Thomas) Gillespie, a member of the Whig Party, was elected one of the Lackawanna County representatives in the state legislature...."

How can that be? Pennsylvania State Archives states that Lackawanna County was "(c)reated on August 13,

1878 from part of Luzerne County..."

**Niki Hannevig**  
Simpson

[Editor's note: The mistake was not the fault of the article's author, Dr. Powell, who is always meticulously and scrupulously accurate. His original article just stated "elected one of the county representatives..." The words 'Lackawanna County' were added at the NEWS office, obviously an error on the part of the NEWS. We apologize for misleading the reader, and thank Nicki Hannivig for correcting our historical faux pax.]

I Knew, of course,  
that Lackawanna  
county did not  
exist in 1848, and  
I consciously  
did not say  
"one of the Luzerne  
County repre-  
sentatives"  
because, <sup>I knew</sup> it  
would only  
confuse some

readers. So I <sup>simply</sup> said — "one of the  
County representatives..."

Enter Tom Fontana -- and  
his meddling in my article.

**4. Philo Callender Gritman and his wife, nee Jane Ball:**





## Rehabilitation of Maplewood Cemetery

### *P.C. Gritman, a City of Carbondale founder, helped set city limits on New Year's Day 1851*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is one in a series of articles in the Carbondale News presented by the Maplewood Cemetery Association offering examples of the many historic, unique and interesting gravesites in Maplewood Cemetery.

Philo Callender Gritman, one of the most civic-minded and public-spirited individuals in the history of Carbondale, can be called, without reservation, one of the founding fathers of the City of Carbondale.

At the time of his death, on February 10, 1903, he was one of the best known and most highly respected residents of the Lackawanna Valley. His earthly remains are interred in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery on the east bank of that section of the cemetery known as Welsh Hill.

P.C. Gritman was born in Sherburne, New York, on October 29, 1828, and with the Gritman family moved to Dundaff in 1829, where his father, Dr. William Gritman, practiced medicine. As a young man, there, P. C. Gritman began his study of law.

In 1847, the Gritman family moved to Carbondale, where P. C. Gritman taught in the Carbondale Academy and Lackawanna Institute, which was one of the leading educational institutions in the area. Succeeding H. J. Newell, he became the second principal of the school, which was located in Temperance Hall at the corner of N. Church Street and Salem Avenue.

At the same time, Gritman continued to read law and entered the law office of D. N. Lathrop, Carbondale's first lawyer. In 1848, he completed his law course and was admitted to the bar of Luzerne County at Wilkes-Barre, and later, when Lackawanna County was established, he was admitted to the Lackawanna County bar.



Philo Callender Gritman



**GRITMAN HOUSE** — The historic Philo Callender Gritman House still stands at 62 N. Main St., currently the Scotchlas/Shifler Funeral Home.

In the second year of his law practice, he formed a partnership with Samuel Hodgdon, which was dissolved a year later when Hodgdon became prothonotary of Luzerne County.

Throughout his adult life, Gritman practiced law in Carbondale, playing an active role in the formation of Lackawanna County. At the time of his death, he was the senior member of the Lackawanna County bar.

Gritman, also trained as a civil engineer, was an active participant in the incorporation of the City of Carbondale in 1851 as a city of the third class. To him was given the privilege of outlining the boundaries of the City of Carbondale and the marking of the boundary lines of the several wards, for which he was paid \$15.

The original city lines were established by Gritman under difficulties that could only be overcome by the ardent civic feeling he had to see the dignity of a city and its powers conferred upon the town that was the birthplace of the great anthracite coal industry.

As the decision to make application for a charter was somewhat belated, it was necessary to act quickly if the town's petition for a charter was to be heard by the legislature of 1851. With that in mind, and disregarding both the end-of-the-year spirit that moved the people at the time to participate in the festivities of the season as well as the knee-deep snow on the ground, P. C. Gritman set out, on New Year's day of that year, accompanied by Townsend Poore, of Scranton, and Thomas Hurley, as chain-boys, and delineated the city's limits before the day was over.

On March 15, 1851 the City of Carbondale, with 5,000 inhabitants, was incorporated as a city of the third class.

Thanks to the enlightened and civic-minded generosity of the descendants of P. C. Gritman, the original Carbondale city seal, created at the time of the city's incorporation in 1851, is today among the historic artifacts in the city's collections.

P. C. Gritman's worth and usefulness to the community were attested to after Carbondale became a city when he was elected district attorney in the Carbondale mayor's court, succeeding George W. Perkins, the first official. His term was from 1856 to 1859, which was followed by two more terms, 1862-65, 1869-71.

He was likewise city attorney for several terms and served on the City's Select and Common Councils. He was later elected for two terms, beginning in 1857, to represent Luzerne County in the Pennsylvania legislature. He readily attracted the interest and won the confidence of his colleagues in the state legislature and asserted himself by being regarded as the Democratic leader of the house, being named, during his second term, as a candidate for the speakership.

An edifying and inspiring trait of P. C. Gritman's character was his intense and active interest in civic and national affairs. The opening of Richmond's hall, on the third floor of the Pascoe & Scurry building (on the southeast corner of Salem Avenue and N. Main Street) on January 25, 1856, was a public event that was marked by a stirring and prophetic talk by P. C. Gritman.

He repudiated the false story that was being circulated to Carbondale's disadvantage, that the rich coal deposits here were about exhausted; and he rightly predicted that within a brief span of time a railroad (the Jefferson branch of the Erie Railroad from Carbondale to Lanesboro) would connect the city on the north with the Erie Railroad.

During the Civil War, his patriotic spirit was shown in September 1862 when he was named captain of the Luzerne Artillorists, a Carbondale state militia company of 50 men, that was called to Harrisburg when the commonwealth was invaded by the Confederates.

On August 25, 1852, P. C. Gritman and Jane Ball, the eldest daughter of William and Mary Ann (Smith) Ball, who was born on February 18, 1833, and died on February 24, 1909, were married. The marriage, which was solemnized by Rev. O. E. Ward, Presbyterian minister from Dundaff, took place in the Ball home on Canaan Street, later the residence of the William Bowers family.

Jane Ball was the daughter of William Ball, for many years the superintendent of motive power and the first master mechanic of the D&H Gravity Railroad.

William Ball came to Carbondale in the 1820s from New York City with five other young men to erect the first engines on the Gravity Railroad planes out of Carbondale, with Ball serving as the first engineer on Plane No. 1 when the road opened on October 9, 1829.

In 1838, Mrs. P. C. Gritman accompanied her father to New York City to witness the arrival in that port of the first trip of the Great Western, the first trans-Atlantic steamer to make regular trips across the Atlantic ocean and the largest ship ever built up to that time and for some years after that.

At the time of P. C. Gritman's death in 1903, his son, William B. Gritman, Esq., was the managing editor of the Carbondale Evening Leader.

Rehabilitation of the P. C. Gritman burial site, and the entire historic Maplewood Cemetery, is now underway. To participate in this important restoration initiative, contact the Maplewood Cemetery Association at Post Office Box 151, Carbondale, or by phone at 570-282-0385.





## 5. James and Margaret (Gillespie) Russell and family



James Russell (1815-1872). Born in Scotland, he came here in the 1840s with many other Scottish and English settlers, and became a highly successful farmer, dairyman, and community leader. The farm that he established in Fell Township was designated a Pennsylvania Century Farm on March 7, 1986. That farm is still in the family and is now the site of the Homestead Golf Course, which was established in 1962.





Margaret Gillespie Locke Russell (1833-1904). Born in Scotland, she came to Carbondale in the 1840s with her mother, Jeanette Gillespie Murray Locke, and her sister, Jeanette Hume Locke. They lived at 35 River Street, where John Gillespie Murray (half brother to Margaret Russell) ultimately established a residence subsequent to his arrival in America from Scotland with his maternal grandparents, John and Jeanette (Hume) Gillespie in the late 1830s. Following the death of her husband, James Russell, in 1872, Margaret Russell ran the family dairy farm for 32 years, all the while raising eight children.

THE STORY OF THE RUSSELL HOMESTEAD

Prepared for the Powell Boys

by

Eleanor P. Jones

on

Christmas

1963

A Shortened Story of the Establishment of the Russell Homestead:

In 1840 Christina Anderson and John Russell came to America from Scotland where they were both born.

They arrived about Oct. 1st 1840 and came to McAlla City (now Elkdale, Pa.) to visit Martha Anderson (Christina's sister) and her husband Archibald McAlla (on their way to Wooster, Ohio).

There after a visit of only six weeks, John Russell became ill and died of pneumonia.

He was buried Oct. 16th in the Elkdale church yard cemetery. <sup>1</sup>

Their plans for a permanent home in Wooster, Ohio where their older daughters <sup>2</sup> lived, never culminated and the widow decided to settle in Pennsylvania because the widow (Mrs. John Russell) said she "did not want to leave John's body."

The widow bought a farm on the back road (road connecting Crystal Lake--regular approach from Carbondale and road to the Elkview Country Club). There, she, with her two sons and three daughters lived. <sup>3</sup>

James and Christina (twins), John the youngest (who married Jeanette Cameron), May (who married Joseph Slocum of Dundaff) <sup>4</sup> and Minnie unmarried who lived with her mother on the farm.

The Scotch people are clannish and very much interested in newcomers.

Carbondale's first broker and keeper of a large department store was a Scotchman named THOMAS GILLESPIE <sup>5</sup> who be-

came deeply interested in a Scotchman (a bachelor) living on a nearby farm in Fell Township. His name was MICHAEL GILLESPIE (no relative of the broker's).

When Thomas Gillespie (broker) learned of the arrival of John Russell and family from Brigend, Scotland, he asked permission of the widow Russell to take Michael Gillespie to call at the farm to meet the widow's family.

This call was the beginning of a new interest for Michael. He was especially interested in the widow's twin daughter Christina.

This interest grew into a real romance that resulted in an engagement.

Not long after Michael and Christina became engaged, Michael was taken ill. This illness was serious and Thomas Gillespie (the broker) grew alarmed. He explained to Michael that some provision should be made in the way of a will and suggested that he (Michael Gillespie) should will his farm to Christina to whom he was engaged.

This was accomplished legally and upon Michael's death, the ownership of his farm became the property of Christina Anderson Russell. 6

(Because he was alone in this country Christina asked her mother for permission to bury Michael next to her father in the Elkdale church yard cemetery--this was done and his grave is marked by a substantial tombstone).

Christina was in a dilemma--what should she do about the nice farm in Fell Township which she had inherited from Michael Gillespie?

She realized she could not go there alone to live. So after talking it over with her twin brother James, they decided that the twins would both move to the newly inherited farm and James would help Christina run the place.

In the meantime Cupid had been busy as far as Christina was concerned.

While living in Scotland, one DAVID LIDDELL had been interested in Christina but he had since moved to Wooster, Ohio.

Now that Christina was alone again David Liddell decided he would like to see her again. So one day he arrived at the farm in Fell Township having ridden horseback the entire four hundred miles that had separated them. 7

This romance grew rapidly and David Liddell returned to Wooster, Ohio determined to return later and claim Christina as his bride.

This he did and on June 12, 1844 they were married in Carbondale, Pa.

Before the bride and groom left (not on horseback this time) for Wooster there was a business conference where James Russell bought out Christina's share in the farm. <sup>8</sup>

Now James Russell was alone on the farm but he had many Scotch friends who frequently visited him. Among these friends was Thomas Gillespie (the broker) who was deeply concerned because James Russell was alone and his <sup>9</sup> niece (Margaret Gillespie Locke) was a stranger in America.

He (Thomas Gillespie) was also especially interested in his niece and family who had recently arrived from Dumfries, Scotland. This sister was Mrs. Jeanette Gillespie Locke, having lost her husband George Locke (buried in Dumfries, Scotland). Her two daughters were Margaret Gillespie Locke (born 1830) and Jeanette Gillespie Locke. <sup>10</sup>

The broker, Thomas Gillespie, introduced this niece and the bachelor James Russell and fostered the romance which culminated in their marriage in Carbondale in 1850.

This new bride and groom moved to the farm and continued to live there from 1850 to James Russell's death in 1872.

In 1872, upon the death of James Russell, the farm was willed to his wife, Margaret Gillespie Locke who continued to run it most successfully during the rest of her life until 1905 when she died. During these years her sons and daughters lived on the farm and helped carry on the work.

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FOOTNOTES (by SRP)

1. Aunt Eleanor (Eleanor Pritchard Jones) erroneously gives the date of John Russell's burial as October 16th. If John Russell died six weeks after his arrival in America (about October 1, 1840) he could not have died or been buried on October 16th. John Russell's tombstone in Elkdale Cemetery reads as follows: "In Memory of John Russell A native of Scotland who died Nov. 20, 1840 æ 62 yrs."
2. This should read "older daughter" and not "older daughters." Martha, the oldest daughter of John Russell and Christina Anderson and wife of Alexander Bruce, did not come to America until 1842. Assuming that Jean Russell came to America at the same time that her husband (William Bruce) did (1840), this, in all probability, is the "older daughter" that John Russell and Christina Anderson were on their way to visit when John Russell died. Christina Anderson did not go to Ohio until after her marriage to David Liddell on June 12, 1844. Minnie and May never lived in Ohio.



3. In the PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY published in 1896, there is a Biographical Sketch of James Russell in which it states (in part):

"James Russell was the eldest son of John and Christina (Anderson) Russell, born in Ayrshire, Scotland, in June 1815. During the Summer of 1840 the family emigrated to the United States, locating first at McAlla City in Clifford Township, Susquehanna County, Pa. Within seven weeks after their arrival in this country the father died, and the eldest son was called upon to take his place as manager of the family affairs. In the Spring of 1841 the family purchased a tract of land, partly cleared, near Crystal Lake, in the Township of Fell, where the family home was erected and maintained until the death of the widowed mother, in March 1861. In the year 1847 James Russell purchased the farm property that still bears his name, and the first day of January, 1851, witnessed his marriage to Margaret Locke of Carbondale..."

Where specifically is the farm that Mrs. John Russell (nee Christina Anderson) bought in the Spring of 1841 near Crystal Lake in the Township of Fell wherein the widowed Mrs. John Russell and children lived until the death of Mrs. John Russell in March 1861?

At the conclusion of the original manuscript of "The Story of the Russell Homestead" (currently in the possession of Helen Loomis Russell Powell) Aunt Eleanor writes:

"Dear Helen, From this point on please fill in the history. (1) The original farm (its size). (2) The farms adjoining it purchased by James Russell. (3) Other additional facts up to and including the present ownership."

Which are the farms that were purchased by James Russell after he acquired the Russell Homestead, having bought same from his sister, Christina, probably in mid-June 1844?

4. May Russell did not marry Joseph Slocum. Rather, her sister, Minnie, did. May Russell married William McAlla (they were first cousins) on November 24, 1862.
5. Thomas Gillespie is one of the eight children of John Gillespie and Jeanette Hume. The other seven children are as follows: 1. William; 2. James; 3. John (who married Jane C. McMichael who was one of the three daughters of James McMichael and May Thompson. John Gillespie and Jane C. McMichael are the parents of William Thompson Gillespie who is the nephew of Jeanette Gillespie Locke); 4. Jane; 5. Jeanette (who married George Locke); 6. Margaret; 7. Joseph.
6. Michael Gillespie's tombstone in Elkdale Cemetery reads as follows: "Michael Gillespie died Sept. 21, 1843 age 50 years a native of Scotland". This date (September 21, 1843) must therefore be taken as the date when the Russell Homestead did in fact become the "Russell Homestead." September 21, 1843 is the date when Christina Russell became the owner of the farm that had belonged to her fiance, Michael Gillespie.
7. David Liddell did not, presumably, make the journey until after the death of Michael Gillespie on September 21, 1843. One can say with some certainty that the 400-mile ride on horseback took place between September 21, 1843 and June 12, 1844 (the date when Christina and David Liddell were married).
8. It seems to be a safe assumption to say that the Russell Homestead became the property of James Russell in mid-June 1844.
9. Thomas Gillespie's niece, that is to say, one of the daughters of Jeanette Gillespie and George Locke.
10. In the Russell plot in the Maplewood Cemetery, Carbondale, Pa., are buried Jeanette Locke (1799-1872) and Jeanette Locke Scott (1837-1868). The former is the mother of Margaret Gillespie Locke, the latter is the sister of Margaret Gillespie Locke. [The only place in all of the family papers that I have examined in the period November 1976--April 1977 that I have uncovered any definite information about the sister of Margaret Gillespie Locke is in a letter written in 1941 by Eleanor Pritchard Jones to Alice Osterhout, i.e., Mrs. H. W. Goodrich of 524 Main Street, Portland, CT. EPJ compiled extensive charts on the Gillespies and sent a copy of her findings to Alice Osterhout Goodrich (daughter of Janet Gillespie and Milo Osterhout--see pp. 2117 of Vol. I of SRP. EPJ's letter was returned to her by Alice Osterhout Goodrich on June 24, 1941. That letter (currently in the collection of Helen Loomis Russell Powell) was posted June 24, 1941 at 10 AM in Middletown, CT.

In that letter, EPJ indicates that Margaret Gillespie Locke's sister, Jeanette, married a William Scott. They had no issue. The question remains: Who is William Scott? Where is he buried?] When Jeanette Locke Scott was buried in the Russell plot in Maplewood Cemetery in 1868, there were already two Russells buried therein: Christina A. 1857-1864, and Jeanette L. 1859-1864. Jeanette Locke (mother of Margaret Gillespie Locke Russell, and James Russell (husband of Margaret Gillespie Locke Russell) both died in 1872 and are buried in the Russell plot in Maplewood Cemetery.

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What follows is a typescript of some additional facts about the Russell Homestead written down by Helen Loomis Russell Powell:

In 1906 (?) the youngest son, William, bought out his sisters' and brothers' shares in the farm. William was married to Ora E. Loomis (died in 1954) on April 10, 1907. William ran the farm until 1955 when he retired. He died in 1958. They had three daughters: Martha (who died at birth), M. Louise and Helen L. Russell. Upon the death of William Russell the farm belonged to his two daughters until 1961 when Helen and her husband, Walter S. Powell, bought her sister's share of the farm. In 1962 the Powells opened a 9-hole golf course that was built on the farm, called the Homestead Golf Course. The Walter Powells had five sons:

Walter William--born Aug. 11, 1939--drowned Aug. 30, 1941  
James Russell--Feb. 7, 1941--killed by lightning Mar. 22, 1955  
Donald Walter--Dec. 12, 1943 (twin of Silas Robert)  
Silas Robert--Dec. 12, 1943 (twin of Donald Walter)  
Russell Thomas--July 22, 1946--married Ann Marie Swindlehurst  
Oct. 8, 1966  
daughter--Laura Lynn--b. May 22, '67  
daughter--April Ann--b. Nov. 7, '68  
son--William Russell--b. Nov. 11, '70

M. Louise married Albert Winter and had two daughters,  
Margaret L. and Elizabeth Ann (married Sam Montello)

## Biographical Portrait of James Russell:

The following is taken from PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CONTAINING PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY TOGETHER WITH BIOGRAPHIES AND PORTRAITS OF ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES (New York and Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1897), pages 960-961:

JAMES RUSSELL was the eldest son of John and Christina (Anderson) Russell, born in Ayrshire, Scotland, in June 1815. During the Summer of 1840 the family emigrated to the United States, locating first at McAlla City in Clifford Township, Susquehanna County, Pa. Within seven weeks after their arrival in this country the father died, and the eldest son was called upon to take his place as manager of the family affairs. In the Spring of 1841 the family purchased a tract of land, partly cleared, near Crystal Lake, in the Township of Fell, where the family home was erected and maintained until the death of the widowed mother, in March 1861. In the year 1847 James Russell purchased the farm property that still bears his name, and the first day of January, 1851, witnessed his marriage to Margaret Locke of Carbondale. Ten children were born to them, six daughters and four sons, of whom three sons, James A., ex-mayor of the city of Carbondale; George M., William A., and three daughters, Mrs. S. S. Jones, Jeanette L., and Jennie M., are still living.

Few men have enjoyed the confidence of their fellowmen in such an eminent degree as James Russell did during his lifetime. He served the district in which he lived continuously from 1849 as school director and treasurer of the township. He was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace in 1851 and re-elected at the expiration of each term, without opposition. He served three terms as supervisor of the township and was an ardent advocate of good roads and public improvements generally. He was a thorough-going business man, methodical, tireless and scrupulously honest in all his dealings. With him public office was accepted with all its responsibilities; he never shirked a duty, nor feared public criticism. He believed in doing right, and did it. He was always a busy man, and managed to accomplish by methodical work what would have been impossible without systematic planning. He was a scientific farmer, and his lands were tilled to secure the largest and best crops. His farm stock was kept up to a high standard. He was progressive and secured at once the labor-saving implements of agriculture, for he was always of the opinion that the best of everything was none too good, to help lighten man's burdens.

Mr. Russell was public-spirited, generous, always ready to assist those in need, and that promptly. In politics he was an ardent, old-school Democrat; his patriotism was never questioned and in the public campaigns he took an active part. He was enterprising and his efforts were not confined to agricultural pursuits.



For a number of years he operated the Fall Brook Colliery and the delivery of the Delaware and Hudson coal in the city of Carbondale. All his undertakings were successful, for the reason that he was in no sense a speculator, but holding firmly to the law that "men must earn what they call their own." This, and all his opinions upon matters appertaining to the daily life were formed from practical observations and experience. He was in no sense a theorist, but eminently practical, controlled by a high sense of duty to his Maker, and a tender regard for his fellowmen. His death occurred May 12, 1872.

CHILDREN OF JAMES RUSSELL and MARGARET GILLESPIE LOCKE

- A. John Murray Russell (m. Isabel Wedeman).....
- B. James A. Russell (m. Viola Kenyon Rivenburg).....
- C. Margaret Gillespie Russell (m. Samuel Sheldon Jones)..
- D. Christina Anderson Russell.....
- E. Jeanette Locke Russell.....
- F. George McClelland Russell (m. Lydia Spencer).....
- G. Christina Anderson Russell .....
- H. Jeanette Locke Russell.....
- I. Jane Martha Russell.....
- J. William Anderson Russell (m. Ora Esmarilda Loomis)....

Buried in Maplewood Cemetery in the James and Margaret Russell plot (in addition to James and Margaret) are D, E, G, H, and I; C is buried in the S. S. Jones plot in Maplewood Cemetery; F is buried in the George and Lydia Russell plot in Maplewood Cemetery.



Here is a photograph of Jeanette Locke Russell (“H” in the above list, and known to the family as “Aunt Nettie”):





Here is a photograph of Jane Martha Russell (“I” in the above list, and known to the family as “Aunt Jennie”):



Here is a photograph of Margaret Gillespie Russell ("C" in the above list of Russell children), who married Samuel Sheldon Jones. She and her husband, and their daughter Eleanor (see No. 6 below) are all buried in the S. S. Jones plot in Maplewood Cemetery.



Here is a photograph of Samuel Sheldon Jones (who married Margaret Gillespie Russell, shown above):



Here is a biographical portrait of Samuel Sheldon Jones:

SAMUEL SHELDON JONES was born in the village (now city) of Carbondale, June 21, 1850. His father, Samuel Jones, was among the first comers who made the little coal mining village of the upper Lackawanna Valley their home. He was a native of South Wales, born near the town of Brexton, February 28, 1806. The death of his mother, which occurred when he was but three months old, left him to the care of relatives, with whom he lived until he reached the age of twelve years, when he was obliged to shift for himself. He secured employment with a farmer in the neighborhood of his early home and served as a farm laborer for a number of years. A longing to see the world led him to the conclusion that life on the ocean would afford him the opportunity he coveted, and one day while strolling about the wharf in the city of Bristol, a ship's surgeon offered him a birth as servant, and the offer was promptly accepted. During one of his voyages across the Atlantic the ship's crew mutined, but the plot was discovered; the ringleaders were placed in irons and upon the arrival of the vessel at New York they were handed over to the authorities, tried, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. C A

The doctor's boy was among the witnesses for the prosecution, and the usual delay in the courts gave him an opportunity to see something of life in the American metropolis. An incident which occurred in the court room made such an impression upon him that he resolved to give up the seafaring life and make America his future home. The incident referred to occurred one morning before the formal opening of the session, when the young Welshman on entering the chamber removed his cap. A man standing on the aisle said to him: "Put your cap on, youngster; court ain't sitting, and mind you are in a free country now." This was the turning point, and when the trial was over he took passage on a North River boat for Albany, and soon found employment on a farm in the neighborhood of that city. In the Spring of 1830 he learned that a party of men from Wales were employed in the Pennsylvania coal mines, and at once concluded to join them. Going down the Hudson River to Roundout, he worked his way on the Canal to Honesdale, and July 10, 1830, arrived in Carbondale. The next day he commenced work in the mines of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. December 28, 1830, he married Eleanor Pritchard, and the young couple began life in part of a small frame structure owned by Stephen Rogers, erected near what is now the corner of Sixth Avenue and Main Street. In the Winter of 1833 they removed to Wilkesbarre, where Mr. Jones engaged in coal mining upon his own account, on lands owned by Colonel Bowman. In the Summer of 1835 he shipped the product of this enterprise by canal, and in the Fall of that year navigation closed while two boat loads of his coal were in the neighborhood of Berwick. The following Spring when he made ready to continue his trip to tidewater, he found the boats empty. This loss discouraged him completely, and on reaching



Wilkesbarre he decided to return to Carbondale. In the Fall of 1836 he purchased a farm on Round Hill, Clifford Township, Susquehanna County, but continued work in the mines at Carbondale, although part of his time was devoted to work on the farm. He was a practical, industrious man; quite satisfied with his lot in life; active in religious work; a regular attendant and officer of the Welsh Congregational Church. He was always interested in public affairs; in politics a pronounced Free Soiler, Whig and Abolitionist, and in the Freymont and Dayton campaigns in 1856 naturally affiliated with the Republican party. His death occurred April 14, 1875.

Buried in  
Maple-  
wood  
Cem.  
Carb.  
Pa.

Buried in Maplewood Cemetery  
—Eleanor Pritchard, mother of the subject of this sketch, was born at Holyhead, Anglesea, North Wales, November 14, 1813,\* and was educated at the Harry Owen preparatory school in her native town. Her people were seafaring folk, and two of her brothers were masters of sailing vessels plying between Liverpool and New York. She came to this country as companion to Miss Elizabeth Bulkley, in the Spring of 1830. Miss Bulkley was married to Edward Owen upon her arrival in New York, and Miss Pritchard was induced to accompany them to the coal regions of Pennsylvania, where Mr. Owen was assured steady employment in the blacksmith shop of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. They arrived in Carbondale in June, 1830, and six months later Miss Pritchard was the bride at one of the earliest weddings celebrated in the little mining village. Fourteen children \*\* were born to this couple, six of whom, five daughters and one son, are now living, Samuel S. Jones, the subject of our sketch, being the youngest member of this large family, and, like his father and grandfather, an only son. He was educated in the public schools, receiving instruction from such teachers as Paulinas Lewis, A. Richardson, Daniel Davis, Moses Caldwell, Benjamin Watrous, L. E. Judd and Prof. A. J. Welles, who was the first principal of graded school No. 1. On the 13th day of May, 1863, he entered the employ of Jacob Cohen and underwent training in the clothing and tailoring business for three years. He was next employed by Joseph Alexander, remaining with him until February, 1867, when he formed a partnership with William Compman and engaged in the clothing and merchant tailoring business under the firm name of Jones and Compman.

The partnership continued until 1875, when Mr Compman retired, and the business was continued by the firm of Jones and Russell. Very early in life Mr. Jones maintained an interest in public affairs, and took an active part in local political affairs. In 1871 he was elected a member of the city council, and re-elected three years in succession. During the four years he served as clerk of the common council. In November, 1876, he was the candidate of the Republican party for assemblyman of the eighth district of Luzerne county and was elected, although the district at that time was overwhelmingly Democratic, serving in the house of representatives during the sessions of 1877 and 1878, and was the youngest member of that body during those

years. He received the party nomination again in 1878, but was defeated by the fusion of the Greenback Labor and Democratic parties.

During the year 1881 and for four years thereafter, Mr. Jones was employed in the county court house at Scranton in the office of county commissioner, recorder and clerk of courts. In 1883 he removed to Dunmore and was resident of that town until August 1887, when he returned to his native town and connected himself with the "Carbondale Leader," beginning active work on this newspaper with the issue of the first daily published in the "Anthracite City." He remained upon the editorial staff until May, 1893, when he retired from newspaper work, to take up the duties of alderman of the second ward, to which office he had been elected for the term of five years.

Mr. Jones was always ready to assist in any movement that had for its object the betterment of his native city; prominently identified with every public improvement; an advocate of every feasible and practicable effort calculated to place the home town on the highest plane possible. Firmly believing that the safety of the people could only be served by perfect sanitation, he urged the enforcement of sanitary law as found upon the statute books; assisted in the organization of the board of health, and for more than five years was secretary of the board. He lost no opportunity to point out the necessity of a complete system of sewers, the construction of paved roadways, grading of the hill street, the erection of sightly buildings, and all matters tending to make the people proud of the city in which they dwelt. He was one of the organizers of the Carbondale Hospital Association and member of the board of directors; an active worker in the first board of trade of Carbondale, serving as secretary of the organization for five years. He was associated with the promoters of the street railway system, Sperl Heating Company, Klatz Bros.' Silk Mill, Anthracite Land and Improvement Company (owner of the Hotel Anthracite), and secretary of the last-named corporation.

January 16, 1877, Mr. Jones was united in marriage with Margaret Gillespie, eldest daughter of James and Margaret Russell of Fell Township, and two children, James Russell, born October 11, 1877, and Eleanor Pritchard, born March 4, 1883, are the result of this union. Mr. Jones is a member of the First Presbyterian Church and Sabbath-school and has always been interested in the work of the nursery of the church.

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Pages 266-68 of PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PA., CONTAINING PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY. TOGETHER WITH BIOGRAPHIES AND PORTRAITS OF ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE U.S. (New York and Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1897).

**6. Eleanor Pritchard Jones** (daughter of Samuel and Margaret Jones, presented above)



Eleanor Pritchard Jones

## **HISTORIC MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY**

# **Carbondale's Celebrated Teacher Eleanor Jones devoted life to the deaf**

*Editor's note: More than 7,000 burials have been made in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery since the cemetery was established more than 180 years ago, and many individuals important to Carbondale history are interred there. Maplewood Cemetery Association is seeking volunteers and community service organizations to help maintain the cemetery. For more information, call the Carbondale Historical Society at 282-0385. Below is one in a series of articles about some of the historical figures who lie at rest in Maplewood Cemetery.*



By DR. S. ROBERT POWELL  
Carbondale Historical Society

Eleanor Pritchard Jones, who became a celebrated teacher of the deaf, was born in Carbondale on March 4, 1883. She was the daughter of Carbondale Alderman Samuel Sheldon Jones and Margaret Gillespie Russell. The Jones family lived at 14 Darte Ave.

A 1901 graduate of Carbondale High School, and Blair Hall, Blairstown, N.J., Miss Jones trained for teaching the deaf under Miss Ada R. King at the Pennsylvania State Oral School, Scranton, from 1902 to 1904, and in September 1904 she began teaching the deaf at that same school.

At the same time, she continued her professional training by attending summer schools at Northwestern University, the Central Institute of Saint Louis (under Dr. Max Goldstein), the Russell Sage Foundation, N.Y., and Johns Hopkins University.

Her work at those four schools, together with extension courses through Columbia University, New York University, the Pennsylvania State College, and the University of Pennsylvania earned Miss Jones a Class A teacher's certificate for academic work from the Conference of Executives of the American Schools for the Deaf, Inc., on August 30, 1949.

From 1904 to 1956, Miss Jones taught at the Pennsylvania State Oral School in Scranton and, at the time of her retirement, was the Supervising Teacher of Speech and head of the Auditory Department.

Following her 52 years of teaching in Scranton, she accepted a position as speech therapist at Saint Mary's School for the Deaf, Buffalo, NY, where she taught from 1961 to 1967.

Miss Jones was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale for 71 years, having taught a Sunday School class there for 40 years. In 1929, she wrote the Centennial History of that church. When the present First Presbyterian Church was erected, Miss Jones endowed a pillar in the main sanctuary in memory of her par-

ents, Alderman and Mrs. Samuel Sheldon Jones.

In 1969, at the time of the 140th anniversary of the founding of Carbondale's First Presbyterian Church, Miss Jones, together with Minnie A. Moyle and Marion M.

Doud, were the three most senior members of that church, all three having become members in 1899 or before.

She had a lifelong interest in ornithology and traveled extensively to observe and study birds in the wild, all the while adding additional species to her carefully documented life-list of avian species observed in the wild. She was an enthusiastic member of the Scranton Audubon Society, and for 35 years taught ornithology classes for the Society.

In 1909, Miss Jones, sailing on the White Star Line's Cretic on June 26 from New York, was a member of a 64-day summer European tour (Italy, Switzerland, France, Holland, England, Scotland, Ireland) organized and conducted by H. W. Dunning & Co. of Boston.

She was a member of the Saint David's Society of Scranton, Elkview Country Club, the Scranton Wild Flower Club, the Century Club of Scranton, and the New Century Club of Carbondale.

She was a voracious reader and enthusiastic bibliophile, her library containing many thousands of volumes. In 1987, 157 volumes of literary, historical, and intellectual classics were donated to the library at Mountain View High School, Kingsley, in memory of Eleanor Pritchard Jones.

Miss Jones' interest in genealogy, notably her Welsh and Scottish ancestors, was great. Her genealogical research, both in this country and in Great Britain, was extensive and professional. Her published articles about her forbears are of the highest quality.

The lives of a great many people were profoundly impacted for the better by Eleanor Pritchard Jones, one of a great many distinguished teachers born, raised, and educated in Carbondale. Miss Jones died on February 6, 1970, and her earthly remains were interred in the Jones plot in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery.

Carbondale News

FIRST PRINT



Eleanor Pritchard

## 7. Captain Michael Flynn

Carbondale (Pa.) News, Wednesday, September 16, 2009

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### Restoring Historic Maplewood Cemetery

## **First shot fired at Gettysburg battle ordered by soldier buried locally**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is one in a series of articles in the Carbondale News presented by the Maplewood Cemetery Association offering examples of the many historic, unique and interesting gravesites in Maplewood Cemetery.*

Captain Michael Flynn, Captain Company C 56th Regiment PV, who ordered the first shot fired at the Battle of Gettysburg, is one of 28 Civil War soldiers who, as of 1890, were interred in Carbondale's New Catholic Cemetery, Park St.

The other 27 soldiers whose earthly remains are buried therein are Thomas Nealon, Andrew O'Connell, James Cannon, Terence Scanlon, Thomas Kilpatrick, Dr. Richard Foote, Thomas Walker, William Perham, John Linnen, Thomas Gilhool, Charles Timmons, Thomas Sullivan, Martin Barrett, Charles Boland.

Also, Patrick Flood, Alex. McLean, Martin Hanophy, Timothy Burns, Barney O'Rourke, Andrew Fagan, John Lyng, Thomas Smith, Anthony Woody, John Flannery, Michael Surdival, Edward Burke, and John O'Grady.

The earthly remains of eight Civil War soldiers who were originally buried in the Old Catholic Cemetery, Belmont Street, were moved to the New Catholic Cemetery on Park Street in the late twentieth century. Those eight Civil War soldiers are Patrick Gallagher, Hugh Gallagher, John McHale, John Willis, John McGowan, Michael Quigly,



**Captain Michael Flynn, the Civil War soldier who ordered the first shot fired at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 is among 28 Civil War soldiers buried in Carbondale's New Catholic Cemetery on Park St.**

Anthony Loftus, and Mathew Norton.

Eleven Civil War soldiers, as of 1890, were interred in cemeteries in the greater Carbondale area: Alban M. Burdick, Wm. Cordner, Alban N. Burdick, and Wm. Sweet (Vail Cemetery, Greenfield); John Niles and Daniel Elmore (Jermyn Cemetery); G. W. Buchanan (Lee Cemetery, Greenfield); Daniel - Vail (Carey Cemetery, Scott); Wesley Thatcher (Meredith Cemetery, Childs); Daniel B. Coon (Peck Cemetery), and Charles Lingfelter (McCawley Cemetery).

In the article in this series about Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery that was published in the News of September 9, we asked that if any readers knew of Civil War veterans who were interred in Maplewood Cemetery after 1890 that they provide us with the names of those veterans for the Cemetery's records.

On September 10, we received a phone call from John W. Schermerhorn, Carbondale, who reported that his ancestor, Jacob D. Schermerhorn, a Civil War veteran who died on March 19, 1906, is also buried in Maplewood Cemetery.

There are also no less than seventy Civil War soldiers from the Carbondale area who, as of 1890, died and were buried away from Carbondale, including eleven who died in the notorious Andersonville Prison.

"Carbondale's participation in the struggle to preserve the Union," observed Dr. S. Robert Powell of the Historical Society, "is extraordinary."

"It is a subject that could and should be studied in detail," he continued, "and we have here at the Historical Society in our archives a lot of material that could be the basis of a very interesting book on Carbondale's commitment to the Union cause during the American Civil War."

**8. Alice Voyle Rashleigh**



Alice Voyle Rashleigh



## Volunteer efforts rehabilitating historic Maplewood Cemetery

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is one in a series of articles in the Carbondale News presented by the Maplewood Cemetery Association offering examples of the many historic, unique and interesting gravesites in Maplewood Cemetery.

A broad range of civic-minded individuals and organizations have donated time, labor, machines, guidance, services, and food and beverages for the volunteers who are now at work in rehabilitating Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery.

The Maple Avenue entrance to the cemetery has been rehabilitated and new steps down into the cemetery have been installed. Grass cutting, brush control, knot-week control, garbage pick up, and tree trimming are now underway throughout, and visible signs of good progress are very evident.

"The restoration process is off to a good start," observed Dr. S. Robert Powell of the Maplewood Cemetery Association, "and we are confident that this project will be carried to a successful conclusion. It's not going to happen over-night. It will be a long process, but we have begun and that's very important."

In this historic cemetery are interred the earthly remains of more than seven thousand persons, including those of many of the leading community and civic leaders in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the Lackawanna Valley.

Robert F. Vandenberg, Washington St., noted, "Here in Maplewood, there are even headstones with Welsh inscriptions on them and stones that were imported from Scotland by early residents. Such stones, which date from the early 1830s, mark the graves of many of the pioneer settlers of Carbondale, and many of the city's founding fathers are buried here. Maplewood Cemetery is really a history book, when you come right down to it, and it's good to see this restoration work going on."

Carbondale City Councilman John Gigliotti,



**Alice Voyle Rashleigh, a prominent and highly respected Carbondale educator, died on July 13, 1954, and her earthly remains were interred in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery. A concerted effort is now underway to restore the Cemetery and to maximize its potential as a historic destination for residents and visitors to the Lackawanna Valley.**

who is one of the leaders of this restoration project, has proposed that an appropriate historical sign be erected at one of the entrances to the cemetery. "We've got to get the word out that this cemetery is one of the greatest historical assets of the City of Carbondale," Gigliotti added. "This cemetery and the many other historical assets of the community can stimulate heritage tourism in this community and in the Lackawanna Valley. It's a great opportunity, and we've got to give it our best."

Alice Voyle Rashleigh, whose earthly remains are buried in Maplewood

Cemetery, was born in Carbondale on August 29, 1870, and in 1940, after teaching in the Carbondale schools for 52 years, she retired from teaching. At the time of her retirement, she was principal of School No. 8, the John Marshall School on Belmont Street (the Turkey Hill store now stands on the site).

At a retirement dinner in her honor, she said, in part: "At 9 P.M., 76 years ago, I arrived in a thunder storm--but later the sun shone through the rain drops producing a rainbow for me. I did not find the pot of gold but I found Happiness in the love of children and the love of friends. Now I am at bat in the 7th inning of my life..."

In March 1946, she wrote a seven-part history of Carbondale that was published in the Carbondale News. In 1951, at the time of the City's centennial celebrations, she wrote Carbondale, "My Carbondale: A History of the Pioneer City."

Her maternal grandfather was Thomas Voyle, three-term Mayor of Carbondale, 1867-69, 1873-74, and 1882-83.

Miss Rashleigh was an enthusiastic supporter of the Columbia Hose Company, and in 1946 the members of that hose company awarded her a Gold Badge Life Membership and Membership Card No. 5.

To participate in this restoration project at Maplewood Cemetery, interested persons are asked to contact the cemetery at Post Office Box 151, Carbondale, or to phone the association at 282-0385.

In the next article in this series on the rehabilitation of Maplewood Cemetery, a biographical portrait of P. C. Gritman, one of Carbondale's founding fathers, will be featured.



## 9. Jacob D. Schermerhorn

Carbondale (Pa.) News, Wednesday, September 9, 2009

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### Restoring Historic Maplewood Cemetery *Civil War veteran of Fell Twp. was "farmer," then "engineer"*

**J**acob D. Schermerhorn, who was born in Sullivan County, New York, on

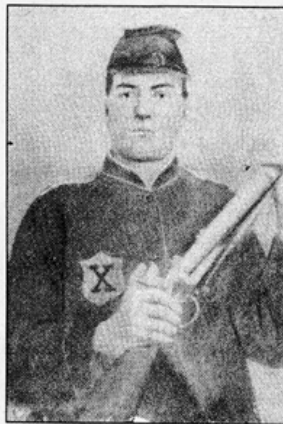
October 21, 1842, enlisted in the Civil War at the age of 19. At the time of his enlistment he gave his occupation as "farmer." He was the son of John R. Schermerhorn and Mary E. Wilton.

Jacob D. Schermerhorn was a private in Co. H, 56th Regiment, New York Infantry, commanded by Captain William Jocelyn.

Private Schermerhorn enlisted in the Civil War at Callicoon Depot, N.Y., on September 14, 1861, and was honorably discharged, at Albany, NY, on October 22, 1864.

At the time of his death in Fell Township on March 19, 1906, his occupation is listed as "engineer." On March 22, 1906, his earthly remains were interred in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery.

Jacob Schermerhorn's first wife was Gussie E. Bell, who died in Port Jervis, N.Y. in August 1879. His second wife, Sarah Augusta Finnen, was born in Lackawaxen, Pa., on May 3, 1863. She and Jacob were married by the Rev. S. M. Rice, rector of Grace Church,



**Jacob D. Schermerhorn, born 1842, a Civil War veteran, lived in Fell Twp. when he died in 1906 and was buried in Carbondale's Maplewood Cemetery.**

Van Vorst, at Jersey City, N.J., on March 13, 1881. They were the parents of five children: Mary M., born March 10, 1882; Joseph W., born October 13, 1884; Annie E., born October 14, 1893; and twins Willard M. and Willis M., born March 30, 1895.

Following the death of Private Schermerhorn, his second wife, Sarah, was married, on August 15, 1907, to Patrick Callahan, by the Rev. Monsignor Thomas F. Coffey, Carbondale.

The Schermerhorn family lived at 285 Dundaff

Street in Fell Township.

A photograph of Private Schermerhorn, as well as information about him, was learned from the Civil War papers of Private Schermerhorn that were made available to the Maplewood Cemetery Association by Private Schermerhorn's descendant John W.

Schermerhorn of Carbondale. Maplewood Cemetery is being restored by a group of civic-minded individuals and organizations under the Association's direction. To learn more about this restoration effort, or to become a part of the restoration team, contact the Association at 282-0385.

A modest exhibition of Civil War memorabilia and photographs is currently on display at the Carbondale Historical Society on the third floor of Carbondale City Hall. The exhibit is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** One in a series of articles in the Carbondale News presented by the Maplewood Cemetery Association offering examples of the many historic, unique and interesting gravesites in Maplewood Cemetery.

10. Civil War Zouave unit, James A. Brennan, Captain



*The Brierwood Pipe* by Winslow Homer (oil painting, 1864, shown here are two members of the Fifth New York, Zouaves.

## "Zouave" troops of Civil War buried in historic Maplewood Cemetery

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is one in a series of articles in the Carbondale News presented by the Maplewood Cemetery Association offering examples of the many historic, unique and interesting gravesites in Maplewood Cemetery.

There are no less than forty-six Civil War soldiers whose earthly remains are interred in Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery.

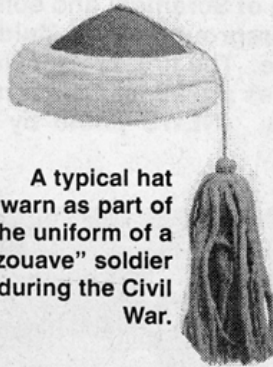
Beginning with the Revolutionary War, Americans went to battle in two columns: the regulars and the militia. The regulars were raised by the Federal government, while the militia were mustered by the states. In wartime the national government claimed command of all forces.

Among the militia units formed in Carbondale were the Wurts Guards (raised through the efforts of Charles Pemberton Wurts, the superintendent of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad at the time), the Luzerne Artillorists (raised through the efforts of Philo Callender Gritman, a biographical portrait of whom was presented in this series of articles on Maplewood Cemetery published in the Carbondale News), and the Carbondale Zouaves, whose captain was James A. Brennan.

In April 1861, when Abraham Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the Confederate rebellion, a pattern of dress for the U. S. Army had long been established.

Providing the necessary uni-

A typical hat worn as part of the uniform of a "zouave" soldier during the Civil War.



forms in a timely manner for the tens of thousands of volunteers for regiments that were established very early in the war years was not an easy task. Unable to produce so many uniforms at short notice, the War Department asked the states to outfit their own regiments and apply to Washington for reimbursement.

Volunteer militia units, such as the many "zouave" units among the state militia, among them, presumably the Carbondale Zouaves, departed for war wearing exotic alternatives to standard military issue.

These zouave uniforms — frequently a red fez with a tassel, a dark blue jacket trimmed in red, and baggy red trousers tucked into leggings or gaiters — were patterned after the costumes worn by North African troops serving in the French Army in the 1830s and 1840s.

The elite French regiments that adopted zouave attire had a well known reputation for military excellence and high style. After Colonel Elmer Ellsworth's smart militia unit, the United States Zouave Cadets, toured America on the eve of the Civil War, a rage for zouave attire and acrobatic drill swept America.

Carbondale's historic Maplewood Cemetery is being restored through the efforts of a group of civic and community-minded individuals and organizations. To become a part of this important restoration initiative, contact the Maplewood Cemetery Association at Post Office Box 151, Carbondale, or telephone 570-282-0385.